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Media Advisory

University Regent raises \$300,000 for Pakistan earthquake relief

BETHESDA, Md. – A member of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Board of Regents, an advisory board to the Secretary of Defense, will travel to Pakistan Wednesday, Dec. 14 to present a check for emergency relief funds he raised in Nevada recently.

Dr. Ikram U. Khan, president of Quality Care Consultants in Las Vegas, was among a team of 10 doctors from the Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America whose efforts produced overwhelming support for victims of the Oct. 8 earthquake in northern Pakistan.

Over a period of four weeks following the earthquake, Dr. Khan said, the 10 physicians organized a dinner at a local Las Vegas hotel. Tables were “sold” to companies and individuals for the event, which attracted 350 people, including celebrities such as CNN’s Larry King. Video messages from Nevada Congressional members Sen. Harry Reid and Rep. Shelley Berkley, and Governor Kenny Guinn were broadcast throughout the evening and a letter from Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf was printed in the event program, all seeking the support of attendees. All totaled, \$300,000 was raised.

“I am a strong believer in the fact that the United States of America is, beyond a doubt, the most generous nation in the world. Citizens in America have a big heart when it comes to human

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tragedy. This has been proven many times over the past decade,” Dr. Khan said. “Given my history [with Pakistan], I felt it was only appropriate to build awareness about this devastating tragedy that has killed more than 80,000 people and made more than three million homeless.”

According to Dr. Khan, who was born and raised in Pakistan, the magnitude 7.5 earthquake was the worst in the country’s history. This tragedy, he said, was much larger than the Asian tsunami in terms of the number of displaced people, and it is compounded by freezing temperatures and anticipated harsh winter weather.

Dr. Khan will fly to Islamabad Dec. 14 to hand deliver a letter from Sen. Reid to President Musharraf. The money, which is intended to be used for shelter and rehabilitation, will be divided among four organizations: Save Our Souls, Save the Children, the Edhi Organization (a local Pakistani philanthropy), and the Human Development Commission of Pakistan (through the United Nations Foundation).

In his role as a member of the USU Board of Regents, Dr. Khan also hopes to visit U.S. military medical assets currently in Pakistan helping with relief efforts. USU, located on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center here, is the nation’s only federal health sciences university, and produces uniformed physicians and advanced practice nurses dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the United States Public Health Service.

Dr. Khan, who is a general surgeon, was appointed to the USU Board of Regents in 1999 by President Bill Clinton. A very active member of his community, he was recently named to the (Nevada) Governor’s Commission for Medical Education, Research and Training, and was a recent recipient of the “Most Influential Man in Southern Nevada” award. Last year he was lauded as one of “America’s Top Surgeons” by the Consumers Research Council of America’s *Guide to America’s Top Surgeons*.

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